DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 318 105 EA 021 729

TITLE	Safety Study--Crashworthiness of Large Poststandard Schoolbuses.
INSTITUTION	National Transportation Safety Board (DOT), Washington, DC.
REPORT NO	NTSB/SS-87/01; PB-87-917002
PUB DATE	18 May 87
NOTE	300p.
AVAILABLE FROM	National Technical Information Service, Springfield, VA 22161.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Research/Technical (143)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Accident Prevention; Bus Transportation; Elementary Secondary Education; *Equipment Evaluation; *Injuries; *Restraints (Vehicle Safety); *School Buses; *Traffic Accidents; Traffic Safety

ABSTRACT

This study reports on the crash performance of large poststandard school buses (school buses manufactured after April 1, 1977, and weighing more than 10,000 pounds unloaded) in 43 accidents investigated by the National Transportation Safety Board. The report discusses the Safety Board's findings as to how well the standards are working to protect passengers from injury and whether changes in the standards are needed. The study focuses solely on events during the crash: how well the bus performed; how occupants sustained their injuries, if any; and how serious the injuries were. Each school bus passenger's experience in the crash also was analyzed to determine the difference, if any, lap belt use would have made. The report concludes with recommendations to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, school bus body manufacturers, and state directors of pupil transportation. Almost two-thirds of the document is devoted to appendices that provide additional data for the analysis.
(Author/MLF)

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